

What is claimed is:

1. A method of online shopping, comprising:
providing a client shopping cart application for generating an online
5 shopping cart usable at a plurality of merchant sites;
connecting to a merchant site;
exchanging information between the merchant site and the client
shopping cart regarding one or more items in the shopping cart; and
transferring check-out information for at least one of the items in
10 the shopping cart from the client shopping cart to at least one of the merchant
sites.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether the merchant site supports the client shopping
15 cart application.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
exposing the items in the shopping cart for bids from the merchant
sites.
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4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
selectively hiding information regarding at least one of the items.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
25 password protecting the online shopping cart.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
obtaining purchase approval prior to transferring check-out
information.

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
configuring the shopping cart according to configuration information
received from a user.

10 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the exchanged information
includes one or more uniform resource locators (URLs) associated with the
checkout of each of the items.

15 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the exchanged information
includes an indication of whether the items are to be included during checkout.

20 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
retrieving locally stored shopper information for checkout; and
transferring the locally stored information to the at least one
merchant site.

25 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
determining whether any of the stored shopper information is
missing; and
prompting the shopper to manually enter missing information.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
transferring a confirmation object from the at least one of the
merchant sites to the client shopping cart application.

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13. A computer program product stored in a computer-usable medium,
comprising:

means for providing a client shopping cart application for
generating an online shopping cart usable at a plurality of merchant sites;

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means for connecting to a merchant site;

means for exchanging information between the merchant site and
the client shopping cart regarding one or more items in the shopping cart; and

means for transferring check-out information for at least one of the
items in the shopping cart from the client shopping cart to at least one of the
merchant sites.

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14. The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising:
means for determining whether the merchant site supports the
client shopping cart application.

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15. The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising:
means for selectively hiding information regarding at least one of
the items.

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16. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the exchanged
information includes one or more uniform resource locators (URLs) associated
with the checkout of each of the items.

17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the exchanged information includes an indication of whether the items are to be included during checkout.

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18. The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising:
means for retrieving locally stored shopper information for
checkout; and

10 means for transferring the locally stored information to the at least
one merchant site.

19. The computer program product of claim 18, further comprising:
means for determining whether any of the stored shopper
information is missing; and

15 means for prompting the shopper to manually enter missing
information.

20. The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising:
means for transferring a confirmation object from the at least one of
20 the merchant sites to the client shopping cart application.

21. A system for online shopping at one or more merchant sites,
comprising:

- 5 a remote client running a shopping cart application for generating
an online shopping cart usable at a plurality of merchant sites;
a browser application running on the remote client for connecting to
a merchant site;
means for exchanging information between the merchant site and
the client shopping cart regarding one or more items in the shopping cart; and
10 means for transferring check-out information for at least one of the
items in the shopping cart from the client shopping cart to at least one of the
merchant sites.

22. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
15 means for determining whether the merchant site supports the
client shopping cart application.

23. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
means for selectively hiding information regarding at least one of
20 the items.

24. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
means for retrieving locally stored shopper information for
checkout; and
25 means for transferring the locally stored information to the at least
one merchant site.